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## Celebrating a Lasting Legacy: Michael M. Martin

Ian Weinstein

*Professor of Law, Fordham University School of Law, [ee@law.fordham.edu](mailto:ee@law.fordham.edu)*

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## DEAN MICHAEL M. MARTIN\*

*Ian Weinstein* \*\*

Mike thought we would be doing this ten years ago, but as things worked out, today we honor him for his service as a faculty member and celebrate his retirement.

Mike has made such a huge contribution. Indeed, in my mind, he's just the best colleague ever. Here's why.

When Mike came to the Law School in 1972, it was a very different place. Hired by then dean Joseph M. McLaughlin,<sup>1</sup> Mike was part of a group of new faculty who were going to make a big difference at the Law School. They were going to make what had become a regional school into a powerhouse. And they did.

They took the law seriously, they cared deeply about their students, and they saw the world was changing, but they were sensible in that the Law School wasn't going to turn on a dime. They met the challenge of bringing the institution along and maintaining relationships, and taking care of the people that were the bedrock of the institution.

Then, Dean John D. Feerick—who has always been the smartest person in the room—recognized Mike's talents. Even before collaboration was fashionable, Mike was doing that: his work with John as associate dean; his work as dean; his collaboration with Professor Dan Capra,<sup>2</sup> so long-running and so fabulously successful, and so much about collaborating and understanding the strengths in teamwork (and, in the case of Mike and Dan, two pretty strong personalities figuring out how to really make it work). But then, that's Mike coming and going; it's always about everyone else and the ideas. And boy, does that man love an idea. I think he's happiest if he can

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\* Distinguished Professor of Law, Emeritus and Dean Emeritus, Fordham University School of Law. He served as dean from 2010 to 2015 and previously served as associate dean from 1995 to 2001. He was also the faculty moderator of the *Fordham Law Review* for thirteen years.

\*\* Professor of Law, Fordham University School of Law. These remarks were delivered at an event honoring departing faculty members at Fordham Law School in the spring of 2020. The text of these remarks has been lightly edited and footnoted. For an overview of the corresponding Tribute, see *Foreword: Celebrating a Lasting Legacy*, 89 FORDHAM L. REV. ONLINE 1 (2020).

1. John D. Feerick, *In Memoriam of Hon. Joseph M. McLaughlin*, 83 FORDHAM L. REV. 1711, 1713 (2015).

2. See, e.g., MICHAEL M. MARTIN & DANIEL J. CAPRA, NEW YORK EVIDENCE HANDBOOK (3d ed. 2020); STEPHEN A. SALTZBURG, MICHAEL M. MARTIN, & DANIEL J. CAPRA, FEDERAL RULES OF EVIDENCE MANUAL (12th ed. 2019).

just chat about a historical period or a legal question or, if you get really lucky, the law of privileges. He likes hearsay just fine, but the law of privileges, now that's something special. Something hard—something really worth thinking about.

And for Mike, what else is there? The people he loves, the ideas that fascinate him, the students he can work with, the institution he can advance. Not for the sake of the institution, certainly not for the sake of the institution, but for the sake of the people he cares about so deeply.

I've chatted with a number of Mike's students over the years, and so often the experience is that, well, they're not really sure about that Professor Martin. But it doesn't take them very long to catch on. And the perceptive ones? They say he's hysterical and clear as a bell. A wonderful teacher, an outstanding accomplished scholar, and just the best colleague ever. Whatever's going on (for example, you have to go to a faculty meeting and you think there's some issue that people are going to get upset about), look for Mike in the room. Look for that sea of calm, that imperturbable person. He isn't always right, but boy, in my experience, he's just never wrong. His friendship has meant the world to me over the years. I will miss him greatly, as I know will many of us. And so, to the best colleague ever, our best wishes, our heartfelt thanks, our love, our eternal gratitude.

Thanks Mike.